

momento of God's mercy to him and his family while in a sick and starving condition. Some years afterwards he kept a public house and had them nailed upon the top of his sign-post, and often related to visitors and travellers the story of his suffering and deliverance.

It will not be out of place here to give a more extended account of this man, who was first in this town to meet the difficulties of a settlement in the wilderness. In his physical aspect he was heavy-built, tall, broad-shouldered, but not corpulent. He had a light complexion, soft blue eye, very light brown hair, with whiskers verging a little to the sandy shade. He was always sanguine in whatever enterprise he undertook. His imagination was lively, and would picture before him the result before he had properly weighed the difficulties to be encountered. In his deportment and common habits he had no refinement. His person and things around him indicated great neglect. His intellectual faculties were, however, well developed. He had a great desire for the acquisition of knowledge. If not occupied with company, or other pressing duties, he might be found with some book in his hand. Those who saw him most, usually found him, if alone, sitting in his bar-room, with his feet perched upon some object higher than his head, absorbed in reading. At such times he seemed not to care how affairs went around him. His cows might be in his garden, or his wife destitute of wood, or his bar-room unswept and in total disorder: he would sit for hours absorbed in

reading. Nor was this any dreamy mood. His mind grasped and retained with an unusual memory whatever he read. One who was intimately acquainted with him has informed me that he had read more than two thousand volumes, and could converse intelligently about the contents of each one of them.

He also had a sociable nature. In conversation he was free, affable, entertaining, and serious, rather than jovial. He was extremely inquisitive, and had a happy faculty of becoming acquainted with strangers who put up with him. He had also an easy way of entertaining them with a great variety of anecdotes. He was not easily forgotten by those who had once stopped at his tavern. It was his natural turn to be engaged in matters of public interest and improvement. He took a prominent part in securing the "act" for the "Coehecton and Great Bend Turnpike." This was then considered a greater achievement than the construction of a canal or a railroad would now be. He possessed a good judgment, and was considered a safe adviser in matters of a legal and public nature. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1796, while this region belonged to Northampton County. When this county was organized in 1798, he was appointed one of the commissioners to locate the Seat of Justice, and erect the court-house and jail. In a vote taken on this question, he found himself alone in favor of a more northern location. After much argument, he, for the sake of unanimity, voted with the others. This gave offence to this part of the county, which he represented. He